



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Release of a Book on Police Working with Roma and Sinti Communities

As delivered by Deputy Political Counselor Andrew Hyde
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 29, 2010

I would like to thank the Secretary General and Mr. Carty for presenting this important publication entitled: *Compilation of Police Best Practices in the OSCE with Respect to Policing and Roma and Sinti Communities*. This book marks the first and very successful collaboration of the OSCE's Contact Point on Roma and Sinti Issues with the Strategic Police Matters Unit. A particularly important aspect of the project from which the book is compiled is the effort to encourage bridge building between police and Romani communities. We particularly note the suggestion for police to explore the positive benefits of encouraging more Roma to join the police services throughout OSCE participating States.

We hope, Mr. Chairman, that this important work will be used wisely by police to discern the best methods for dealing sensitively with a people that are too often marginalized in society. To that end, we would also hope to see this book added to the curriculum of police academies in states with large Romani communities.

As Mr. Carty mentioned, it should be a part of a process, not an end in itself

Both Mr. Mirga as the Contact Point for Roma and Sinti issues at ODIHR and Mr. Carty at the SPMU deserve our sincere thanks for developing this project. We look forward, gentlemen, to seeing the fruits of your labors in the years ahead.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.